



Capitol Report

News & Updates from Your State Capitol
By Arkansas Secretary of State Charlie Daniels

www.sos.arkansas.gov

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Little Rock Nine Civil Rights Monument Unveiled at State Capitol

On August 30, Melba Pattillo Beals, Elizabeth Eckford, Ernest Green, Gloria Ray Karlmark, Carlotta Walls Lanier, Dr. Terrence Roberts, Jefferson Thomas, Minnijean Brown Trickey, and Thelma Mothershed Wair -- collectively known as the Little Rock Nine -- and their families gathered with family and friends for a ceremony at the Arkansas State Capitol to unveil a civil rights monument dedicated in their honor.

The life-sized civil rights sculpture, entitled "Testament," depicts the Little Rock Nine walking together, with their

books in hand, as they did in 1957 entering Little Rock Central High School. Local artists and political cartoonists John and Kathy Deering were the sculptors commissioned to design the monument.

The event, hosted by Secretary of State Charlie Daniels, State Senator Tracy Steele and State Senator Irma Hunter Brown, drew a crowd of over 800 to honor the nine African American pioneers who integrated Little Rock Central High School in 1957.

(See LITTLE ROCK NINE Cont. on Page 2)



Gloria Ray Karlmark and Ernest Green pose beside their likenesses during the Dedication of the Little Rock Memorial.

Secretary of State Commemorates Women's Suffrage at the State Capitol

Dr. Joycelyn Elders, former U.S. Surgeon General, was the keynote speaker at an August 26 commemoration of the woman's right to vote. Secretary of State Charlie Daniels hosted the event at the State Capitol to mark the 85th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Elders touched on her experiences as the first African-American and only the

second female to hold the office of surgeon general. She also urged those in attendance to continue making strides for women and to realize the power they hold with the precious right to vote.

Her presentation at the State Capitol opened an exhibit on women's suffrage that featured life-size displays of leading figures in the women's suffrage movement.

(See ELDERS Cont. on Page 2)



One of the most moving experiences I've enjoyed as Secretary of State was to witness the unveiling of the Little Rock Nine Memorial, "Testament." What a rare honor to share the stage with those celebrated alumni of Central High and commemorate their 1957 goal, "...to earn the best education possible."

The most important lesson they learned during that critical time in 1957, however, was outside the classroom. Amid hostile crowds and armed guardsmen, they learned strength, dignity, courage and tenacity. Time has etched that character into their faces today, but the life-size figures created by John and Kathy Deering preserve the nine as teenagers, frozen in a time of innocence, uncertainty and trepidation.

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Secretary of State Charlie Daniels speaks during the Little Rock Nine Monument unveiling.

(Continued from front page)

It was a poignant moment this August when Minnijean Brown Trickey, Elizabeth Eckford, Ernest Green, Thelma Mothershed Wair, Melba Pattillo Beals, Gloria Ray Karlmark, Dr. Terrence Roberts, Jefferson Thomas and Carlotta Walls Lanier stepped forward to uncover the sculptures and stand face-to-face with their younger selves. That first bittersweet glimpse soon turned into a loving celebration between the schoolmates and the family and friends who joined them.

I am very honored to have witnessed that moment and so proud to have played a part in bringing the project to reality. On your next visit to the State Capitol, I urge you to visit the monument on the north lawn and walk among the figures as hundreds have already done, remembering the barriers that these young faces removed for all of us.

As we enter the holiday season, I am also reminded to honor other courageous Americans: the men and women of our armed services. Veteran's Day presents us with the opportunity to remember those who have fought in wars past, and especially to salute those friends who are serving today. During the annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance on December 7, we'll join with Arkansans who survived the attack, pausing once again to honor their service and those who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our liberty.

LITTLE ROCK NINE (Cont. from front page)

Featured speakers for the event were Ernest Green, the first of the nine to graduate from Central, and Carlotta Walls Lanier. U.S. Senator Mark Pryor, U.S. Representative Vic Snyder, Lt. Governor Winthrop Rockefeller and Arkansas Attorney General Mike Beebe also gave remarks during the ceremony.

"It was a great honor to host, as well as witness, an historic event of this magnitude at the State Capitol," Secretary of State Charlie Daniels said during his remarks. "Forty-eight years ago, nine young students embarked on a journey into history that neither they nor their loved ones could have ever imagined. With the unveiling of this monument, we honor for all time the labor and the sacrifices of the Little Rock Nine as civil rights pioneers. They stood with pure courage and bold dignity in the face of adamant racism and adversity, to ensure that all American citizens would have a right to an equal education wherever they choose to go to school," he added.

In the 2005 Arkansas legislative session, Senator Steele sponsored Act 1483 to appropriate the funds to erect the Little Rock Nine Civil Rights Monument. The Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation and the Little Rock Nine Foundation also provided funding. "Testament" is believed to be the first monument to Civil Rights on the grounds of any Southern state capitol.

ELDERS (Cont. from front page)

Alice Paul, Lucy Burns, Sojourner Truth, Carrie Chapman Catt, Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton were among those highlighted. Also honored were a number of "women's firsts," including the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate, Hattie Caraway of Arkansas.

"Before 1920, women lacked the right to vote in most of the United States and therefore lacked a say in the political process; they were denied many opportunities open to men," said Secretary of State Daniels. "The ratification of the 19th amendment was the culmination of decades of work by many determined women. I'm very proud we could celebrate the 85th anniversary of this historic occasion and take pride in Arkansas's progressive move in ratifying this amendment well before many other states," he added.



Dr. Joycelyn Elders delivers her remarks on women's issues. She was the keynote speaker for the opening of an exhibit marking the 85th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Let Us Know

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Capitol Elves Make Ready for Annual Holiday Celebration

Capitol Lighting Ceremony

The state's holiday season officially begins with the annual holiday lighting ceremony at the State Capitol on the evening of December 3, immediately following the Big Jingle Jubilee Holiday Parade. Once again the Capitol will be ablaze with thousands of lights outlining the building. Hosted by Secretary of State Charlie Daniels, the grand lighting ceremony will begin around dusk and conclude with a brilliant fireworks show above the Capitol dome.



Following the lighting, families can venture inside the Capitol to see a wonderland of decorations while the Sweet Adelines Top of the Rock Chorus performs. Children can also hop onto Santa's knee and share their wishes for the season.

Kids Crafts

Prior to the parade, the Secretary of State's Communications & Education Division will help entertain children with special holiday activities that will take place on the front lawn of the Capitol. Kids can work their way through several activity tents to create a special holiday keepsake, then enjoy some refreshments before the parade makes its way to the Capitol steps.



Decking the Halls

The George Jernigan Tree, a live cedar located on the front lawn of the Capitol, will once again serve as the state's official tree and will be decorated with hundreds of lights.

Inside, the Rotunda Tree will be adorned with large hand-painted globe ornaments, each depicting a unique scene from each of the state's 75 counties. This year's live tree is being donated by Mr. Bert Eubanks of the Twin Lakes neighborhood in Little Rock.



Gift Shop Holds Treasures for the Season

During the holiday season, be sure to visit the State Capitol Gift Shop for a unique selection of gifts, many of them made right here in the Natural State.

One of the exclusive items featured is the annual State Capitol ornament. Each year, the ornament series depicts a different scene from the Capitol building in beautiful gold and enamel. The 2005 selection highlights the elegant limestone and marble fireplaces found in the Governor's Conference Room. Carved on the side consoles of the fireplace images of early European residents of the area.



See this collectible piece and other gifts at the Gift Shop in the first floor rotunda on your this holiday season.



Capitol Briefing

Constitution Week at the State Capitol



Students from Rightsell Elementary School in Little Rock add their signatures to a reproduction of the U.S. Constitution during the kickoff ceremony for Constitution Week at the State Capitol on September 19.

Meet Me At The Fair!



(From Left) Jon Davidson, Jarrod Johnson and Chevis Givens were among the Secretary of State staff members representing the office during the Arkansas State Fair in October. Fairgoers took home publications ranging from the Protocol for the Arkansas State Flag, a state symbol activity book and tour information for the State Capitol.

Capitol Exhibit Honors Arkansas's Blues Legacy

Secretary of State Charlie Daniels kicked off a special celebration of the distinctive music and heritage of the Arkansas Delta region when the exhibit "Arkansas Blues," opened September 21. The ceremony featured a special musical performance by John Craig and his Blues Band.

"Blues music reflects the heart and soul of the Mississippi Delta," Daniels said. "This exhibit honors the significant contributions so many Arkansas musicians have made to this legendary art form since its earliest inception, and I've been proud to bring it to the halls of the State Capitol."

The exhibit, located in the Capitol's first floor galleries, included signed and vintage musical instruments, rare photographs, memorabilia and vintage posters from blues festivals including the King Biscuit Blues Festival (now known as the Arkansas Blues and Heritage Festival), as well as art inspired by blues music.



John Craig filled the marble halls of the State Capitol with the sounds of the Delta during the exhibit opening for "Arkansas Blues."

The "Arkansas Blues" exhibit was organized in cooperation with the Arkansas Educational Television Network, the Delta Cultural Center (an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage) and the Arkansas River Blues Society.

Companies Not Filing Franchise Taxes Can Lose Corporate Charter

More than 100,000 corporations in Arkansas submit Franchise Tax filings each year to the Secretary of State's office. Companies doing business in the state of Arkansas had a deadline of May 2 to file franchise taxes with the Secretary of State's office, but more than 14,000 companies to date are delinquent.

Companies not filing Franchise Taxes by the deadline are considered "not current." The Secretary of State's Business and Commercial Services Division is required to compile a list of corporations who have not met all yearly Franchise Tax requirements. Those companies received notices in October that their corporation's status will change from "not current" to "revoked" if they do not take action to pay their Franchise Taxes by the end of this year.

To date, 14,804 have not met their requirements and are subject to forfeiture of their corporate charter. Corporations are reminded that payment of all Franchise Taxes, with penalty and interest, is due by December 31, 2005. Corporations have the option of filing their Franchise Taxes online, 24 hours a day, by visiting the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.arkansas.gov. Corporations can also file by bringing their payment directly to the Secretary of State's Business and Commercial Services Division located at 1401 West Capitol Avenue, Victory Building Suite 250, Little Rock, Arkansas.

The Secretary of State's Business and Commercial Services Division is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday. For additional information, e-mail corporations@sos.arkansas.gov, call (501) 682-3409 or toll free at (888) 233-0325 or log onto www.sos.arkansas.gov.

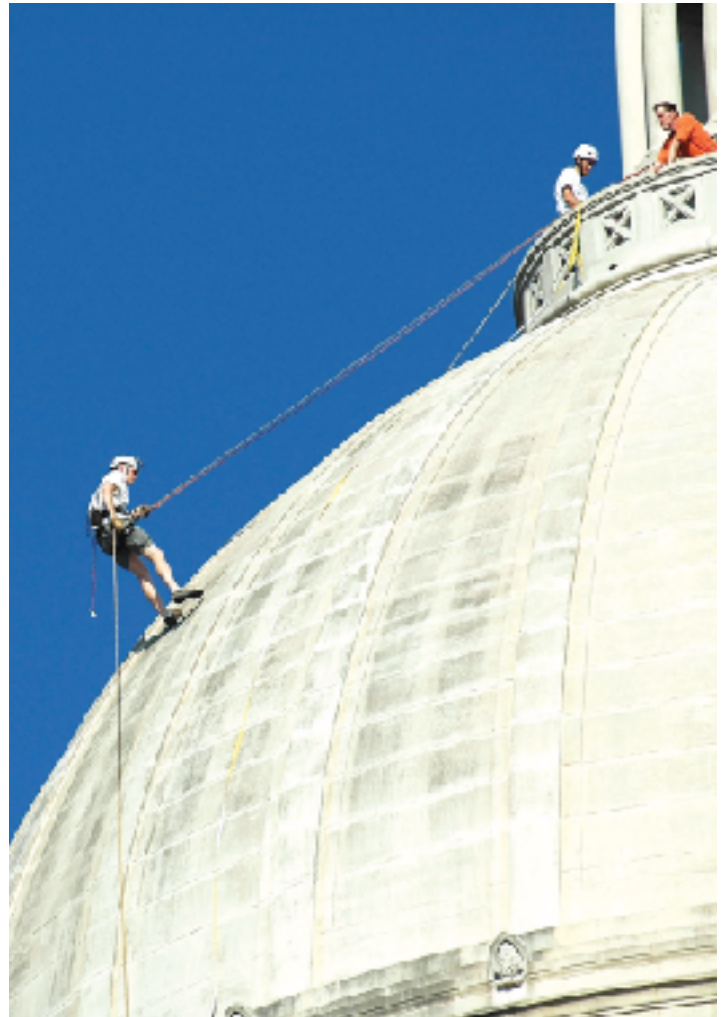
State Capitol Dome Restoration and Repair begins first step towards completion with Site Review

Arkansas Secretary of State Charlie Daniels began the first step in the restoration and repair of the State Capitol dome on September 20 when Mississippi Stone Guild of Eupora, Miss., conducted the initial survey work of the dome surface. The company contracted climbers from Little Rock Climbing Center to rappel off the slope of the Capitol dome and take photographs of the damage to the limestone surface.

Mississippi Stone Guild has analyzed those photos to determine the extent of the damage and to assess repair needs. After reviewing that report, Secretary Daniels will begin the bidding process to select a contractor for the project.

The dome was last cleaned in 1988, but since then it has become heavily soiled and stained with lichen, which is a composite of fungus and algae that has grown into the stone and formed a dark, crusty surface. Restoration and repair work for the project will be completed in three phases, beginning with the dome and followed by the north façade and then the dome platform. The work is being funded by a \$1 million grant awarded to the Secretary of State by the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council (ANCRC).

“I pursued the ANCRC grant in order to address the dome’s evident damage and discoloration,” said Secretary of State Daniels. “My staff and I are committed to preserving the beauty and elegance of Arkansas’s State Capitol. This grant makes it possible for us to provide the care and attention needed to ensure the safety and integrity of this magnificent structure,” he added.



Workers with Mississippi Stone Guild inspect surface of Capitol dome with help from the Little Rock Climbing center.

Secretary of State Speakers Available For Schools and Civic Groups

Did you know that the Secretary of State is responsible for providing authentication on public documents that are to be used abroad? Have you ever been curious why the Capitol Building and the surrounding grounds are the responsibility of the Secretary of State? Are you interested in how the Secretary of State’s office maintains records on all state and district elections held in Arkansas? Your group can hear first-hand answers to these questions and more through the Secretary of State’s Speakers Bureau.

Staff from many areas of the Secretary of State’s office are available to discuss a variety of topics with your organization. Presentations include such diverse issues as: the functions of the Secretary of State’s office; a history of the Capitol

Building; current voter education services; and how the Secretary of State’s office collects corporate franchise taxes, processes domestic and foreign filings and registers notaries public.

If you’re a classroom teacher, presentations are also available to students on such subjects as: running for office in Arkansas, “Voting 101” and “Government: How it works for you.”

If your organization or school would like someone from the Secretary of State’s Office to speak to your group, please call (501) 683-3702 to schedule a time or for more information.

CAPITOL REFLECTIONS: A NEW STONE AGE

The upcoming dome restoration is not the first time that the Capitol's stonework has drawn attention. Even during construction, the choice of raw materials was a controversy. The Legislature originally intended to use Arkansas granite, but opted for native limestone, styled "Batesville marble" because of its hardness and luster. But delays in delivery and concerns over the quality and price of the Arkansas stone soon arose.

In the spring of 1910, a representative of architect Cass Gilbert visited the Dugan Cut Stone Company and the Bedford Quarries Company in Indiana. Despite a strike in progress, the companies could supply enough Hoosier Blue limestone in a consistent high quality to complete the dome by the end of 1910, and Capitol commissioners approved the switch.

When complete, the dome initially stood out bright against the Arkansas sky. However, it soon lost its luster thanks to the effects of weather and pollutants, particularly smoke from the nearby railroad. These conditions had so darkened the dome and stone trim by 1934 that Secretary of State Ed McDonald ordered a restoration following the accepted practice of the day of refacing -- chipping off a thin layer of stone to remove embedded stains.

Contractor W.E. Clark chose Burnie H. Morgan, a 30-year-old Tennessee native, to perform the delicate refacing work. Over a period of four months, Morgan usually worked alone with his hammer and chisels to remove blackened stone. He designed a curved ladder that conformed to the swell of the dome. The ladder was tied secured to the cupola, and Morgan was supported by safety ropes 200 feet above ground. When finished, he chiseled his name and the date into a gable surface, a mark of his pride in the job.



The Capitol dome has since been cleaned, usually by sandblasting, with the most recent procedure performed in 1988 to efface traces of an explosion on the dome staged during production of a made-for-television film, *Under Siege*. While effective in the short term, this process, like refacing, rendered the limestone susceptible to moisture penetration, which has led to deterioration of the stone and mortar.

In contrast, the current project will not remove layers of the limestone, but will, instead, seal it against further erosion. The meticulous work will strive to preserve the majestic dome for many more generations of Arkansans.



11-05

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